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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/724,220	12/01/2003	Masatoshi Yasunori	0020-5204	9833
2292	7590	04/29/2005	EXAMINER	
BIRCH STEWART KOLASCH & BIRCH PO BOX 747 FALLS CHURCH, VA 22040-0747			HSIEH, SHIH YUNG	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2837	

DATE MAILED: 04/29/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/724,220

Applicant(s)

YASUNORI, MASATOSHI

Examiner

Shih-yung Hsieh

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

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1. The applicant is advised that the priority box is wrongly marked to decline priority in the Declaration.

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mechem et al. (4,993,127) in view of Orton (4,624,033).

Regarding claim 1, Mechem et al. disclose the claimed invention. The difference between Mechem et al. and claim 1 is that claim recites an insert groove linked to the through hole and extended from the through hole to an opposite sided of the placement portion; an engagement member that is rotatably mounted on the main body and that is composed of an engagement portion projected inside the insertion groove to form a small hole larger than the shaft portion and smaller than the bulging portion along with an end portion of the insertion groove, and an operation portion projected outward from the main body; and a biasing member for biasing the engagement members so as to retain the engagement portion of the engagement member in a state of being projected inside the insertion groove of the main body.

Orton teaches a securement device having an insert groove (the space housing the engagement members 60 and 62) linked to a through hole (the hole for button 54)

and extended from the through hole to an opposite sided of the placement portion; an engagement member (60) that is rotatably mounted on the main body and that is composed of an engagement portion projected inside the insertion groove to form a small hole larger than the shaft portion and smaller than the bulging portion along with an end portion of the insertion groove (Figs. 1-5), and an operation portion (76) projected outward from the main body (Fig. 1) ; and a biasing member (70) for biasing the engagement members so as to retain the engagement portion of the engagement member in a state of being projected inside the insertion groove of the main body.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to modify Mechem et al's fixture as taught by Orton to include an insert groove linked to the through hole and extended from the through hole to an opposite sided of the placement portion; an engagement member that is rotatably mounted on the main body and that is composed of an engagement portion projected inside the insertion groove to form a small hole larger than the shaft portion and smaller than the bulging portion along with an end portion of the insertion groove, and an operation portion projected outward from the main body; and a biasing member for biasing the engagement members for the purpose of locking on the bulging portion of a guitar attachment object.

Regarding claim 3, Mechem et al. in view of Orton disclose the claimed invention.

4. Claim 2 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

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5. Claim 2 is allowable over the prior art for at least the reason that the prior art fails to reasonably teach or suggest in claim 2 that the engagement portion of the engagement member forms a large hole larger than the budging portion along with the through hole as set forth in the claimed combination.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shih-yung Hsieh whose telephone number is 571-272-2065. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:00-3:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Martin can be reached on 571-272-2107. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

syh


SHIH-YUNG HSIEH
PRIMARY EXAMINER